

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17, 26, 29-42 and 51-54 were pending in the Office Action, and upon entry of the present paper, claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 3-17, 26, 29-42 and 51-54 remain pending. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that the present application contains allowable subject matter. In the Office Action, claims 26 and 29-42 are allowed, while claims 2-7, 9, 12-13, 53 and 54 are indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter. As for the other claims, those are treated as follows: claims 1, 8, 15 and 51-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Boros et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,024); claims 11, 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over an alleged combination of Boros et al. and Canada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,546,236); and claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over an alleged combination of Boros et al. and Parkvall et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,736). Additionally, claims 5 and 7 stand rejected under a double patenting rejection in view of co-pending application serial no. 11/068,855. The enclosed Terminal Disclaimer obviates this double patenting rejection.

Independent claim 1 is the sole independent claim that currently stands under a rejection (claim 26 being allowed). The Office Action notes that dependent claim 2, which depends from claim 1, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The present amendment amends independent claim 1 to incorporate language formerly found in allowable claim 2, and Applicants submit that amended independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 3-17 and 51-54 depend from claim 1, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, and further in view of the various features recited therein (indeed, many of these claims are already indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent format).

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same. Should the Examiner find that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite passage to issue of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below. Applicants look forward to passage to issue of the present application at the earliest convenience of the Office.

Respectfully submitted,
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

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By: /Steve Chang/
Steve S. Chang
Registration No. 42,402

1001 G Street, N.W.
Eleventh Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
(202) 824-3000